



Code Enforcement

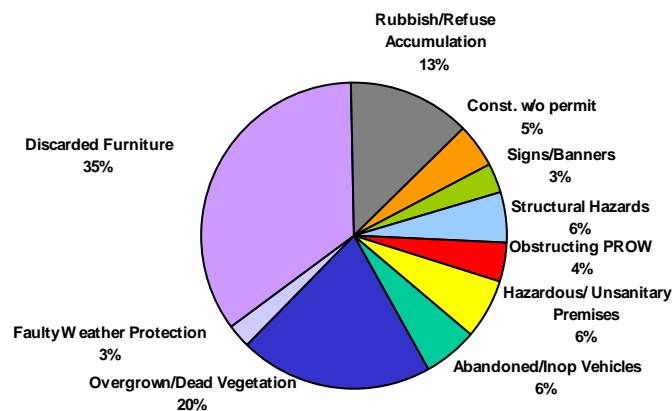
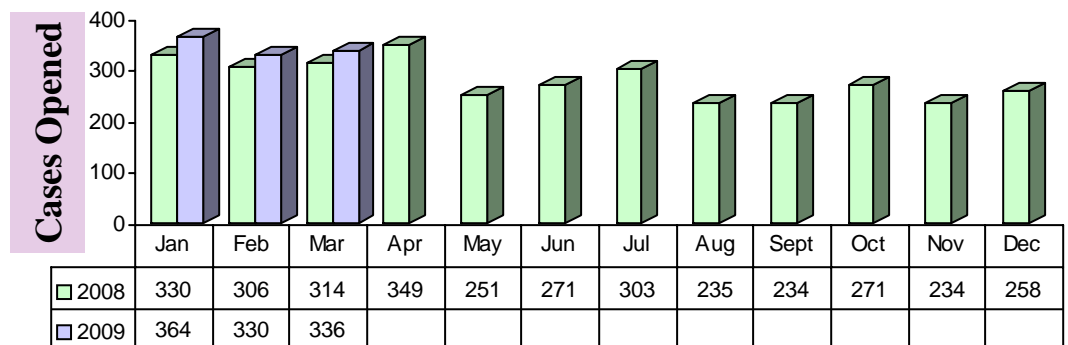
Overview of March Code Enforcement Activity

In March 2009, the Code Enforcement/Neighborhood Preservation Division opened 336 new cases, conducted 725 inspections, and successfully resolved 284 cases.

Other achievements included:

- Received/returned over 1,322 phone calls
- Initiated 249 proactive cases
- Responded to 80% of all complaints in 1 day or less
- Inspected 86% of all complaints within 48 hours
- Averaged 1.63 days from initial call to first inspection
- Observed 294 violations and abated 232 violations
- Issued 33 notices of violation and 2 civil citations
- On average, gained compliance within 31.5 days from the date of the initial complaint
- Completed 16 on-site visits with property owners or responsible parties to educate them on code enforcement violations and resources available to bring their properties into compliance.
- Conducted a Neighborhood Workshop for 25 residents to educate and inform them of City efforts to improve neighborhood quality of life.

Twelve Month Code Enforcement Case History



Top Ten Violations by Type

- Discarded Furniture 35%
- Faulty Weather Protection 3%
- Rubbish/Refuse Accumulation 13%
- Obstructing Public Right of Way 4%
- Abandoned/Inop Vehicles 6%
- Signs/Banners 3%
- Structural Hazards 6%
- Overgrown/Dead Vegetation 20%
- Construction w/o permit 5%
- Hazardous/Unsanitary Premises 6%



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Managing Property Line Trees

To report a Code Violation:

- ✓ Call the Code Enforcement reporting line at:
714-375-5155
or email:
jdemers@surfcity-hb.org
- ✓ State the nature of your complaint.
- ✓ Provide the address where the violation exists.
- ✓ Leave your first name and contact information. This is important, as it allows the officer to ask additional questions and provide you with updates if requested.

For the status of an existing complaint:

- ✓ Call the City's Automated Inspection Line at:
(714) 536-5241
and press "22".
- Or
- ✓ Contact the Code Enforcement Officer assigned to your case.

Code Enforcement deals with a variety of issues, from trash cans in public view to nuisance properties. One of the most common complaints deals with a neighbors tree branches overhang the complaining party's property and either causing damage to the fence or dropping debris onto their property. This is a common complaint in Huntington Beach because the problem primarily occurs in residential neighborhood where mature landscape conditions exist. Although

sympathetic, Code Enforcement does not have the authority to require a property owner to trim or remove any of their vegetation unless it overhangs into the public right way, impeding either pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or the vegetation is dead and presents a potential fire or vector hazard.

This is a prime example of a civil matter between property owners. Code Enforcement strongly recommends for residents to attempt to work this out amicably with

their neighbors as the first resort. Then, if both neighbors are unable to resolve the issue satisfactorily, they still have the option of utilizing the court system. Property owners have the right to trim offending vegetation back to their own property line, provided the trimming does not impact the future life of the plant.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Code Enforcement division at 714-375-5155 or email
jdemers@surfcityhb.org.

Through the combined efforts of Code Enforcement Staff and the property owner, the large roof sign of the vacant Levitz Building was removed. Since the closure of the business, the sign had become rusted and a visual blight.

